

■ CSS Précis 2010

Of all the characteristics of ordinary human nature envy is the most unfortunate; not only does the envious person wish to inflict misfortune and do so whenever he can with impunity, but he is also himself rendered unhappy by envy. Instead

of deriving pleasure from what he has, he derives pain from what others have. If he can, he deprives others of their advantages, which to him is as desirable as it would be to secure the same advantages himself. If this passion is allowed to run riot it becomes fatal to all excellence, and even the most useful exercise of exceptional skill. Why should a medical man go to see his patients in a car when the labourer has to walk to his work? Why should the scientific investigator be allowed to spend his time in a warm room when others have to face the inclemency of the elements? Why should a man who possesses some rare talent of great importance to the world be saved from the drudgery of his own housework? To such questions envy finds no answer. Fortunately, however, there is in human nature a compensating passion, namely that of admiration. Whosoever wishes to increase human happiness must wish to increase admiration and to diminish envy. What cure is there for envy? For the saint there is the cure of selflessness, though even in the case of saint's envy of other saints is by no means impossible. But, leaving saints out of account, the only cure of envy in the case of ordinary men and women is happiness, and the difficulty is that envy is itself a terrible obstacle to happiness. But the envious man may say: 'what is the good of telling me that the cure of envy is happiness? I cannot find happiness while I continue to feel envy, and you tell me that I cannot cease to be envious until I find happiness.' but real life is never so logical as this. Merely to realize the cause of one's own envious feeling is to take a long step towards curing them.

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Title : Envy: An Obstacle [^]to Happiness.

Precis:

One of the reasons that a person is unable to be happy, is the envious human nature. An envious person tries to take away another person's opportunity as it is a source of pain for him to see others happy. Envy affects a person's mind in a way that the mind becomes irrational. However, there is another aspect of human nature, that is the way towards happiness, is admiration. Envy can be an obstacle in this way. Finding the root cause for one's envious behaviour and working upon it is a start of the journey to cure envy.

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